REMARKS

The Office Action of 08/04/2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Holden. Claims 1, 9-12 and 15 have been canceled. New claims 16 and 17 have been added to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 now recites a shared memory queue for receiving multiple input data streams and providing a single output data stream, comprising an array of data memory locations; input means for selecting an unused data memory location and routing a data element from one of the input streams to be stored therein, wherein a routing path is provided for each of the input streams to each of the data memory locations; respective pointer queues corresponding to respective ones of said input data streams, wherein when a data element from a given input data stream is stored in a given data memory location, a pointer to the given data memory location is stored in a pointer queue corresponding to the given input data stream; a readout circuit coupled to the array of data memory locations; and output means for causing a next data element of a selected input data stream to be output, by applying to the array of data memory locations a pointer from a pointer queue corresponding to the selected input data stream. Holden is not believed to teach or suggest any such combination of features.

Claim 17 recites a corresponding method.

Accordingly, claims 16 and 17 are believed to patentably define over Holden.

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Dependent claims 2-8, 13 and 14 are also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to their respective independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2-8, 13, 14, 16 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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